



## Leptospirosis

The disease is caused by the organisms collectively referred to as *Leptospira hardjo* (*L. borgpetersenii* serovar *hardjo* and *L. interrogans* serovar *hardjo*).

After infection these bacteria localise in the reproductive tract and in the kidneys. The disease also affects humans, causing flu-like symptoms, headaches and even kidney failure

### Clinical signs

- Leptospirosis is associated with infertility and abortion in both beef and dairy herds
- Drop in milk production two to seven days after infection of susceptible cows
- Soft and flabby udder with colostrum-like secretions or blood-tinged milk in all quarters
- May become lethargic and stiff with a fever and reduced appetite
- Weak and undersized calves

### Transmission

- The agent is passed in urine and infection spreads when cattle are exposed to urine from infected animals
- Disease is nearly always introduced into the herd by the purchase of infected cattle
- Infection may be introduced by contaminated water supplies
- Although *L. hardjo* does not appear to cause disease in sheep, infected sheep may be a source of infection for cattle
- Most often spread during spring and summer months while cattle are at pasture
- Cattle can remain as hosts for many years, spreading infection through a herd

### Impact

- It is estimated that **75% of cattle**<sup>1</sup> are exposed to the disease during their lifetime
- Potential losses of over **£100 per cow** in affected herds through falling milk yields and **abortion rates of up to 30%**<sup>2</sup>

1 – CHeCS

2 – NADIS

# Protect your herd!

## Leptospirosis Accreditation Scheme

Add value and protect your herd by joining the Premium Cattle Health Scheme

Join today for 50% off Annual Membership in your first year!

### Benefits of Joining

- As a member you benefit from preferential testing rates to keep costs down
- Results are emailed directly to you and your vet simultaneously, for easy integration into your existing herd health management
- Our specialist vets are also available to discuss test results and action plans
- Advertise your stock as **Leptospirosis** accredited at auction or for private sales and be listed on our **online database** to help market your stock and achieve higher prices

### How the Accreditation Scheme Works:

- Follow the **CHeCS** rules and conditions for testing, stock management and biosecurity
- Initially test all cattle over 2 years of age plus any breeding replacements aged 1 to 2 years
- Test again in 6 to 12 months
- Two consecutive clear herd tests results in accreditation
- Continue to test proportion of herd annually
- Members pay an annual membership fee, can also become accredited for **BVD, Johne's Disease, IBR and Neospora**
- Certificates are issued to show herd health status

### Already Leptospirosis Free?

Many UK herds are free of this disease but don't realise. Joining the Premium Cattle Health Scheme can give farmers the opportunity to recognise and protect this valuable status.

### For more info please contact:

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[www.cattlehealth.co.uk](http://www.cattlehealth.co.uk)



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